



ASSOCIATION OF OPEN UNIVERSITY

GRADUATES in WALES

Edition 4

Nation 10 Newsletter

Spring 2013

Hello to all the AOUG members in Wales. Here we are in 2013 and this is your first newsletter of the year. Hope everyone is well and you are braving the terrible weather we have all had recently. The new version of OMEGA is full of details of events we hope to hold. Two members June Stuart Watts and Austin Bickers have agreed to process at the Degree Ceremony in Cardiff.

This year is the 25th Anniversary of the AOUG and therefore a reason for a party. Although the Association is holding events to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, it is also planned for each Region and Nation to hold some special activity of their own. Let's celebrate! There are also some new Trading items made in silver nickel including an AOUG badge to in regard to the anniversary.

If you have any news items you would like to include in these newsletters, please send any contributions you would like to make to the AOUG Office at AOUG, Walton Hall, and Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA. For general enquiries or queries on membership, telephone the AOUG Office on 01908 653316. E-mail: aoug@open.ac.uk.

THE OU in WALES

OU in Wales achieves Green Dragon Environmental Standard

In a continuing effort to improve our environmental sustainability, The Open University in Wales was recently awarded Level Two of the Green Dragon Environmental Standard. The Green Dragon is a stepped standard which recognises the steps taken by companies and organisations to achieve environmental improvements.

AOUG NEWS and EVENTS 2013

26 April 2013 from 10.30am Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

This was a one-day conference for everyone interested in part-time study, a vital part of the Welsh higher education landscape. It examined where the sector is now, and where it needs to change going forward. **Keynote speakers: Leighton Andrews AM** (Minister for Education and Skills, Welsh Government) and **Martin Bean** (Vice-Chancellor, Open University)

AGM and SOCIAL WEEKEND 2013

The AGM has been arranged by Region 04 whose Executive Representative is Mohammed Motawalla. It is to be held at the Holiday Inn at Walsall on 17th, 18th and 19th May. There are many trips arranged and one is to the jewellery centre in Birmingham, with a special tour of the Assay Office. The Booking form for this AGM and Social Weekend was included in your Winter OMEGA so please be sure to fill it in now, to secure your place at what promises to be a really special celebration.



THE FOUNDATION LECTURE IN OCTOBER



4th October, 2013 at 2pm Handel in London – A Documentary Journey”. By Professor Donald Burrows - Director of the Handel Project at the Open University. To be held at Walton Hall. Tickets £10, contact AOUG@open.ac.uk 01908 653316

DIARY DATES

Saturday 8th June. 2pm

Meet at Conway Castle main entrance. The castle is a World Heritage Site and had more than 150,000 visitors in 2010. UNESCO considers it to be one of the best such sites in Europe and well worth seeing. Walking tour of the town and tea at a local cafe.

Monday 10th June. 2pm Monmouth Handshake Event. (Note - transferred from 29th April.) Handshake event with members from Region 03. Meet at the Castle near the statue of Henry V, or near the Gatehouse of the castle. Please advise of any disability needs. .

Saturday 28th September 7pm for Cardiff Castle Banquet

To celebrate 25 years of the AOUG - attend the Banquet at Cardiff Castle. Dating from the 15th century, the Undercroft is one of the oldest parts of the Castle and here you can enjoy the very best of Welsh food. This is a great value night at just £39 per person, including a 4 course meal, half a bottle of wine and all entertainment. For a small extra cost, a tour of the Castle apartments can also be arranged before the Banquet begins (currently £4.00 per person - minimum numbers apply) Friends and family are very welcome and please contact if planning to attend. Please advise of attendance by July 2013 to enable booking of correct numbers and costs.

HARRY OF MONMOUTH AND THE ARROW

I first saw the play Henry V by Shakespeare on the stage in the 1980's. At the Theatre Royal Newcastle my husband and I saw Sir Kenneth Branagh in one of his first leading roles for the RSC. I said at the time he was a one to watch. What an understatement. So when we travelled to Tewkesbury a few years ago we visited Stratford on Avon and again saw some plays, and also spent the day in Monmouth, the place where Henry, Prince Hal, was born in the Queens Chamber above the Gate House in 1387, and from where we obtain his name Harry of Monmouth. The man himself and his history are fascinating. Did you know that he survived an arrow which landed just beneath his eye, a really terrible injury? His ancestor Harold Godwinson is the famous death by an arrow in the eye which is shown on the Bayeux Tapestry. Yet the hero of Agincourt is not well known for this miracle of healing. Seemingly the wound was treated with herbs and honey, cleaned daily with alcohol and gradually it grew new tissue and healed. A sign of the strength of the person wounded and the skill and care given. Yet poor Henry died of dysentery, the disease that killed most soldiers throughout the medieval period, other than on the battlefield.

Shakespeare must have found these facts concerning the injury and then dysentery difficult to stage, so did not use the information. The play and films entitled "Henry V" would be very different if he had done so.

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CONTACT DETAILS FOR AOUG IN WALES

My current e-mail address is

My day time phone number is Mobile number is

My evening phone number is

My correct postal address is

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25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN WALES

One Region has already planned a Garden Party at a member`s home, whilst another is going to take a leisurely trip on a canal. Hopefully members in Wales will be able to attend a Banquet at Cardiff Castle. A Medieval Banquet could be the perfect way to celebrate and a great chance to dress up and have a superb night of food and enjoyment in magnificent surroundings. If you have an idea for any other form of celebrate, or any other events please complete the form below.

Poetry Group: I have an interest in poetry and was for a few years a member of a Welsh poetry society. If you would be interested in a Poetry group in Wales, **please contact Violet on 0796226091 or email the AOUG office or email Violet at lealand5-vi@yahoo.co.uk**

Tour, Talks and Walks.

Poetry readings in beautiful places and with tours of the countryside. If this sounds great to you here are the details of Literature Wales who have many such events which include readings by Poets of their own work and academics. To find out more contact "Literature Wales" on 029 2047 2266/ email post@literaturewales.org.

This is part of the Literature Wales Literary Tourism Events Programme.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE AOUG IN WALES

I would like to receive Newsletters by post and enclose a donation ofstamps

I am interested in attending events around the area.

I am interested in types of activities.

I am interested in becoming a Local Contact for area.

I am interested in learning more about the role of Executive Representative

Name: PI Number:

**Please type or print your name clearly. Please return to the AOUG Office
aoug@open.ac.uk or AOUG Office, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes. MK7 6AA**